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POWER OF EDITORIALS

According to the Raleigh News-Observer, a number of Carolina editors are having a great time discussing why it is that editorials are not read. So there are clergymen who complain that their sermons do not attract auditors. It must be a melancholy reflection to the man whether in the pulpit or in the sanctuary that his labors are counted as naught by those for whose edification or enlightenment much time and thought has been expended. Where such is the case there is generally a reason other than that of lack of intelligent appreciation of what is worth hearing or reading on the part of the church congregation or the newspaper subscribers. Our Raleigh contemporary admonishes its "hissed" contemporaries that "the reason our editorials are not more generally read is because we don't put the ginger in them; we are too dreary and stilted and labored; we write on subjects we hadn't ought to write on, as they are not general interest; we beat about the bush too much to avoid giving offense. Good editorials are read, and always will be. Colonel Watterson, in his palmy days, made of the Louisville Courier-Journal one of the most popular papers in the United States, not because of its surpassing news service, but on account of its fine editorial page."

The Norfolk Virginia-Pilot in commenting on the above says:

There are, of course, both preachers and journalists who have mistaken their calling, who have no message to deliver, or who are incapable of vesting it with the vigor of thought and impressiveness of language which will command attention. But apart from these, there are others in both professions who are satisfied with perfunctory performance of their mission, who do not put their hearts and minds into their work, who shrink from expression of their convictions on subjects as to which there is sharp division of public sentiment, who follow the paths of least resistance and draw along in dull comments on commonplace topics for fear of rousing antagonisms or forfeiting favor, or from temperamental apathy towards live issues. The man who has something to say and says it clearly and boldly seldom fails of a hearing whatever the medium he uses for disseminating his opinions. The newspaper which keeps up with the current of popular thought and contributes to them well considered and well phrased editorial discussion of the questions on which those currents turn, will, so far as our notice goes, never want for an interested clientele. When the editor himself feels no impelling interest in the matter he treats of, gives forth no certain sound when right is in certain sound or wrong in the ascendant, and offers to the public neither instruction, guidance nor mental refreshment. He has no one to blame but himself if his own attitude is reflected in that of the public.

The trouble with many writers of editorials is the attempt to write when they are out of tune. It is said that Macaulay, when he found his mind was becoming too sluggish, would drop the pen and wait until his muse returned.

Writing like humor, must be spontaneous, and the man who attempts to amuse or edify readers daily may find it difficult. The elder Snowden would sometimes for weeks fill the editorial department of the Gazette with comments from other papers. At intervals he would print a lengthy editorial which was always closely studied and copied in many other papers.

WEAK-MINDED OF THE STATE.

A synopsis of the report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections was published in Saturday's Gazette. The board gives an exhaustive exhibit of jail and workhouse and poorhouse conditions, cost of maintaining the same, etc., and says:

Jail prisoners are our greatest prison problem; they live in enforced idleness, while the taxpayer works to support them.

Over 60 percent of the jail population is made up of feeble minded and other permanently antisocial persons, who practically live in jail all the time and will burden the taxpayer either by other institutions with

themselves and families as long as they live.

Our methods of dealing with criminals, paupers, and other anti-social groups have not resulted in the reduction of their numbers.

The increase of anti-social classes appears to keep pace with the growth in population. This is true not only of Virginia, but of the nation at large. It is now generally admitted by specialists in social sciences that crime, pauperism, etc., as well as insanity result largely from conditions of the mind, and the inefficiency of our present methods of dealing with such classes is doubtless due to our failure to give adequate recognition to mental causes.

Most of the class referred to by the board allow their minds to go to seed. In every community there is a certain class who do not hesitate to say they will not work. A negro named George Midgett was hanged in Alexandria for murder in 1909. He said he preferred death to becoming an inmate of the penitentiary. A white man was sent to jail for two months by the Police Court last week for vagrancy. He had said he would never work. There is "apparently nothing wrong with this man's mind."

OLD PAPER SUSPENDED.

The Newburyport, Mass., Herald, one of the oldest weeklies in the country, was published for the last time Saturday. It was started in 1773 and has never missed an edition.

The suspension of the Herald makes the second anti-revolution journal which has gone out of existence in recent years. The Worcester Spy, its cotemporary, passed away several years ago.

The Alexandria Gazette may have been printed synchronously with both these papers. The first mention of the Gazette that can be found is in an order of the court of this city dated 1784, which directs that notice of a certain action be published in this paper. The order reads as though the Gazette was then an institution in Alexandria.

The Gazette is gradually becoming a lone tree in a clearing. One of the penalties of old age is watching the passing away of our cotemporaries. For many years papers published with the Gazette in the latter part of the eighteenth century have died, while the Gazette is still showing the age and body of the times.

NEWS OF THE DAY

A carnival will be held on upper Seventh street Washington tonight.

Between 2,500 and 5,000 machinists employed at the plant of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, N. Y., will walk out of the shops today.

Fifteen million dollars' worth of artificial legs and arms for crippled soldiers will be made by the J. E. Hanger Artificial Limb Company Pittsburgh, Pa., to fill orders awarded by the English and French governments.

Gertrude, aged 13, daughter of Benjamin Hurwitz, merchant of Mount Hope, W. Va., was killed Saturday when the automobile she was learning to drive went over a steep embankment. Her skull was crushed.

U. S. Naval officers assigned to examine pieces of metal, said to have been found aboard the Allan liner Hesperian before she sank off the Irish coast, September 4, are virtually convinced that vessel was wrecked by a mine. Their findings will be this week.

Jewels valued at more than \$75,000 owned by Mrs. James McMillan, widow of United States Senator McMillan, have been stolen from the summer home of the family, Eagle Head, at Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass. The robbery occurred on the night of August 7.

Returning from a visit to a fish-camp 10 miles north of Wheeling, W. Va., the pleasure yacht Wilma, owned and driven by Owen Friery, of Wheeling, struck piling of the cofferdam at government dam No. 12, building at Warwood, W. Va., last night. The launch was crushed and its four occupants were thrown into the stream. Only Friery was saved.

Henry H. Flather, former cashier for Riggs National Bank, of Washington returned to that city yesterday from Connecticut, and will file today a \$5,000 bond for his appearance in the District Supreme Court at a proper time to plead to indictments in which he is charged with perjury. He would not comment on the case.

Germany has failed to satisfy the request of the United States that the sinking of the Arabic with a loss of American lives be disavowed and liability for the act assumed by the imperial government. This became

known after a conference last night between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, at which the latter submitted a note given him Saturday in New York by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador.

* Nine mine workers entombed in the Foster Creek tunnel of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company at Coaldale, Pa., at noon last Monday were taken out alive yesterday. They were found on top of a chute, in which they had crawled to escape a flood of water that had broken from an abandoned working and caused more than 300 feet of gangway roof to fall, shutting off means of escape.

W. S. Brooks, well-known lumberman of Rhodes Station, Ala., committed suicide at his home yesterday morning by shooting. He told wife he was going to kill himself. She grabbed the barrel of the gun as he pulled the trigger. One of the fingers of her right hand was shot off and she was rendered unconscious by the force of the discharge. Brooks then reloaded the gun, and placed the muzzle against his temple pulled the trigger.

An attempt was made Friday morning to blow up the store of Centofanti and Son at Davis, W. Va., with a bomb wrapped in an old salt sack and bound with clothesline wire. The bomb was placed on the outside of the front door. The explosion broke the glass and set the building on fire. The family was sleeping upstairs. Centofanti received no threats and as far as he knows has no enemies.

A wife, 38 years old and childless but comely, sat in the Circuit Court at Geneva, Illinois, and in tones so low that the judge had to lean from the bench to hear her tell how she had given up the husband she loved to a young and pretty girl who pleaded that the baby she expected might be given a name. The woman reciting the unusual drama of the eternal triangle was Mrs. Fred Ott, wife of an automobile dealer. The girl to whom she said she had decided to yield her husband was Miss Effie Hoyles 22 years old. A divorce was granted.

William J. Bryan narrowly missed being witness in a murder case Saturday at Hillsboro, Texas. He left the speakers' stand after concluding a disarming speech shortly before Mrs. Joseph Kirkpatrick shot and killed Dr. A. C. Sayers. Dr. Sayers, one of the most prominent out on bond for the killing of Mrs. Kirkpatrick's husband last January. Mr. Bryan had just concluded his lecture and was passing through the crowd when Mrs. Kirkpatrick approached an automobile in which Sayers was seated and opened fire at close range with two revolvers. She then surrendered to the Sheriff. Mrs. Kirkpatrick is 68 years old.

VIRGINIA NEWS

The granite monument erected at the grave of the late Congressman Walter Preston Brownlow was unveiled yesterday at Bristol, with appropriate ceremonies. Prominent men and many of the constituents of the late Congressman attended.

The Tenth Annual Convention of the League of Virginia Municipalities will be held in Fredericksburg on October 12 and 13th. The forthcoming meeting will undoubtedly be the largest and most successful that has yet been held. A number of prominent speakers will be present.

More than 100 members of the Grand Army of the Republic, most of them from Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, who have been attending the Grand Army reunion in Washington, arrived in Petersburg, yesterday morning. They were met by a large delegation from A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans and taken in automobiles to the battle fields in front of Petersburg.

The rains of last week prevented the completion of the tobacco cutting in the Lynchburg district and it is estimated that a fourth of the crop is still uncut. The market last week was strong on primings, the average price for the week being higher than last year. Only 85,000 pounds were sold during September. The new tobacco, other than primings, will come to the market for about three weeks.

The Lynchburg board of tax review has made its final assessment on intangible personal property adding \$1,762,181 on the assessment of 60 firms. The added assessment is for the present tax year and the board, acting upon the suggestion of the State Advisory Board, decided to take no steps relative to assessment for back years until the General Assembly has had

an opportunity to consider laws at its next session.

Miss Jessie Waddell, who for the past two years had been befriended by the Salvation Army at Suffolk, and who for the past six weeks has been taken care of by Captain Eaton, of the Salvation Army Post, ran away and joined a circus which recently exhibited at Suffolk. She told Captain Eaton that "the life" was calling her, she having once been a trapeze actress and rider. Miss Waddell went, while in the circus, under the name of Mabel Scott.

Attempting to escape from a constable, Bud Porter, who is alleged to have been a notorious negro of Tarboro, N. C., was shot and killed by the officer at Michipongo yesterday. Discovered in the home of Clifford Leathery at Michipongo Saturday night Porter remained in the house most of the night, preventing the occupants from capturing him. He was arrested yesterday morning by Constable Hoover, of Michipongo, but made his fatal break for liberty while being taken to the county jail. He was 30 years old.

From the pulpits of twelve or fifteen Richmond churches last night, ministers denounced the action of the Board of Police Commissioners of Richmond in dismissing Detective Sergeant Fred L. Frengel, presumably because of the officer's testimony in the recent vice investigation. Several pastors, who have taken a deep interest in the recent reform movement in the city, made the Krengel case their theme, and the Police Board's course received condemnation in many respects more severe than has been given the proceedings of public body in Richmond.

Rev. James L. Lancaster died Saturday evening at 6 o'clock from paresis. He was a son of the late John A. Lancaster, of Cumberland County, and the grandson of Rev. J. H. C. Leach, D. D. Mr. Lancaster was a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and of Union Theological Seminary. After serving several Presbyterian churches in Missouri and Mississippi, he served one term as chaplain of the University of Virginia, from which place he went to one of the oldest churches in this country, at Perth Amboy, N. J. Failing health caused him to resign that charge several years ago.

James M. Kirkland died at Warfield last week. Mr. Kirkland, one of Pickett's men, who was shot to pieces at Gettysburg, survived his wounds more than fifty years and died from the effects of a bad cold, which settled on his kidneys. One of the bullets, which pierced his body and lodged in his back, he carried with him to his grave, when he was buried Friday afternoon at his old home near Charlie Hope, Va. His life was really saved at Gettysburg by a Bible which he carried in a pocket over his heart. A rifle ball penetrated the book, but spent its force, lodging against a rib. None of the other balls struck a vital spot, although he was left on the battlefield for dead.

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Manufacturers of Fertilizers, Fertilizer Materials and Sulphuric Acid. Ask your dealer for the Alexandria Fertilizer and Chemical Co's products. Capacity 50,000 Tons per Annum. Princeps St. and Potomac River.

TO INSPECT INDIAN HEAD

Naval Advisory Board Will Organize Wednesday.

Washington, Oct. 4.—One of the first things the new naval advisory board will do will be to inspect the naval proving grounds at Indian Head Md., where projectile, big gun and powder tests are held. The inventors and scientists composing the board, headed by Thomas A. Edison, will hold their first meeting Wednesday and organize. They will discuss in a preliminary way the scope of work and consider plans for the new naval scientific laboratory.

AUTO CRASH KILLS THREE

Owner and Daughters Escape Guts' Fate.

Altoona, Pa., Oct. 4.—While speeding along the highway near Cross Roads, three miles south of Roaring Spring, yesterday evening, William E. Eberle, general foreman of the Pennsylvania Railroad car shops, lost control of his automobile. It plunged into a ditch at the side of the road and then into a fence. Three of the party were killed and three injured.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PREMIER CARRIER OF THE SOUTH

IN EFFECT SEPT. 12th
N. B.—Following selected figures are published only as information, not guaranteed.

Trains leave Union Station, Alexandria.
7:37 A. M. Daily—Local between Washington & Danville, delivers connection daily except Sunday at Orange & C. & O. No. 405 for Gordonsville & Richmond.
8:47 A. M.—Daily Local for Harrisonburg and way stations. Buffet parlor car.
9:17 A. M. Daily—Mail train, coaches for Manassas, Warrenton, Orange, Lynchburg, Greensboro and Charlotte.
10:22 A. M. Daily—U. S. Post Mail only for passengers to points at which scheduled to stop: Coaches and sleeping cars to Atlanta, New Orleans, Birmingham, Steubenville, Cincinnati, Asheville, coaches for Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Danville, Greensboro, and Charlotte.
4:22 p. m. daily—Local for Charlottesville connecting at Calverton for Warrenton.
4:52 P. M. Daily—Birmingham Special Sleeping cars between New York, Asheville, Atlanta, Aniston, Birmingham, and Augusta. Through first class coaches between Washington, Atlanta and Birmingham. Dining car service. Pullman Buffet parlor cars.
5:22 P. M.—Local for Warrenton.
10:02 P. M.—Daily Washington and Chattanooga Limited (via Lynchburg) first class coaches and sleeping cars to Roanoke, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Steubenville, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Memphis. Dining car service. Washington sleeping cars open 10 p. m. For detailed schedule figures, tickets, reservations, etc., apply to E. L. COLEMAN, Vice-Pres., and Gen. Manager.
E. E. COLEMAN, Gen'l Pass. Agent
W. H. TAYLOR, Pass Traffic Mgr.
C. W. WESTBURY, Gen. Agent.
95 15th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Union ticket agent, Alexandria, Va.
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WASHINGTON-VIRGINIA RAILWAY CO.

In effect June 21, 1915.
Subject to Change Without Notice.
Leave Alexandria for Washington.
Daily Except Sundays and Holidays.
A. M.—5:00, 5:40, 6:00, 6:20, 6:40, 6:55, 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8:00, 8:10, 8:20, 8:40, 9:00, 9:20, 9:40, 10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:00, 11:20, 11:40, Noon, 12:00.
P. M.—12:20, 12:40, 1:00, 1:20, 1:40, 2:00, 2:20, 2:40, 3:00, 3:20, 3:40, 4:00, 4:20, 4:40, 5:00, 5:20, 5:40, 6:00, 6:20, 6:40, 7:00, 7:20, 7:35, 8:00, 8:20, 9:00, 9:20, 10:00, 10:20, 11:00, 11:20, 11:40, 12:00.
Sundays and Holidays, same as above except trains at 5:00, 5:40, 5:55, 6:20, 6:40, 7:10, 7:30, 7:40, and 8:10 A. M. and 11:55 P. M.
Leave Alexandria for Mt. Vernon.
Daily—Week Days—5:35, 6:55, 7:55, 8:55, 10:20, 11:30, P. M.—12:20, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:35, 6:40, 7:35, 8:52, 10:20, 11:50.
Sundays as above except 6:35 and 6:55 A. M. and 11:50 P. M.

Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Railway Company

Steamers of this line leave Alexandria Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays at 4:30 P. M.
FOR BALTIMORE AND ALL THE USUAL RIVER LANDINGS.
Cabin and appointments excellent. Freight for Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York solicited and handled with care. Through rates and bills of lading issued.
Single fare to Baltimore, \$2.00 return trip, \$4.00; state rooms one way \$15.00.

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Every day in the year for Fort Monroe, Norfolk, Newport News and points south, via superb powerful steel palace steamers.

Through connections made at Norfolk with steamers of the Old Dominion Steamship Company for New York and Merchants and Miner's Steamships for Boston.

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500 PEOPLE AND BEAUTIFUL HORSES
RICHEST COSTUMES
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FAMED AS THE **WORLD'S SHOW BEAUTIFUL**
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ARTISTS FEATURES RIDERS DAREDEVIL ACTS

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W. B. Smoot, Vice-President.
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DIRECTORS
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G. T. Scott, T. C. Smith,
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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
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High Grade Investment Bonds 1st Mortgages on Real Estate.
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